

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USBERL 01037 191641Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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P R 191554Z APR 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4403  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T USBERLIN 1037

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, US, FR, US, UK  
SUBJECT: BERLIN: SOVIETS CALL END TO FLAG TOURS

REFS: (A) BONN 06582, (B) BONN 06499, ((C) USBERLIN 1017

1. SUMMARY. OVER THE SEEKEND FRENCH INFORMED BRITISH AND US MISSIONS OF SOVIET DEMARCHE IN PARIS (REF A). AT BRITISH (CHAIRMAN) REQUEST THREE MISSIONS MET APRIL 18 TO DISCUSS SOVIET DEMARCHE AND CONSIDER TRIPARTITE ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN BERLIN TO SIGNAL ALLIED DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ALLIED RIGHTS. TAKING THEIR CUE FROM TRIPARTITE AMBASSADORIAL DISCUSSION WITH GEHLHOFF APRIL 14 (REF B), MISSIONS QUICKLY AGREED TO FORMULATE DRAFT COUNTERMEASURES PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION BY BONN GROUP. THE MISSIONS NOTED GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE THREE ALLIES IN BONN THAT THE SOVIET DEMARCHE SHOULD BE ANSWERED FIRMLY AND AT A HIGH LEVEL. THE THREE MISSIONS ALSO AGREED IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE THAT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 USBERL 01037 191641Z

THERE SHOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN THE NORMAL FREQUENCY OF FLAG TOURS. END SUMMARY.

2. RECOGNIZING AS WE DO THE NEED FOR TRIPARTITE SOLIDARITY ON THE CONDUCT OF FLAG TOURS IN EAST BERLIN (REF C, PARA 4), BITISH (CHAIRMAN) CONVOKED POLITICAL AND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE ALLIED

MISSIONS AFTERNOON OF APRIL 19. IT WAS ASSUMED THAT PENDING A RESPONSE FROM THE ALLIES TO THE SOVIET DEMARCHE, THERE WOULD BE NO INCREASED HARASSMENT OF ALLIED FLAG TOURS IN EAST BERLIN. THE CONDUCT OF FLAG TOURS BEFORE AND AFTER THE RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET DEMARCHE WAS DISCUSSED WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE PERIOD AROUND MAY 1 WHEN THE GDR TRADITIONALLY HOLDS A MILITARY PARADE AND THE ALLIES TRADITIONALLY EXPAND THEIR MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN EAST BERLIN. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN FLAG TOURS WOULD REMAIN AT FOUR DURING THIS PERIOD BUT THE FRENCH AND THE BRITISH NORMALLY INCREASE THEIR COVERAGE FROM ONE TO TWO PER DAY. THE ALLIED MISSIONS CONSIDER THAT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO ADHERE TO THIS NORMAL PATTERN OF FLAG TOUR VISITS TO EAST BERLIN. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS AGREED THAT UTMOST DISCRETION MUST BE OBSERVED BY MEMBERS OF THE FLAG TOURS AND THE EXERCISE OF ALLIED RIGHTS OF ACCESS THROUGHOUT EAST BERLIN SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER INTELLIGENCE GATHERING. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT IN THE CASES OF "BOXED-IN" FLAG TOURS, SUCH AS WAS ATTEMPTED APRIL 14 AGAINST AN AMERICAN FLAG TOUR, THE USUAL BERLIN PROCEDURES OF SENDING A SECOND VEHICLE TO THE SCENE, AND OF PROTESTING AT THE PROTOCOL OFFICER LEVEL WOULD BE ADHERED TO.

3. THE THREE MISSIONS NEXT CONSIDERED WHAT TRIPARTITE AGREED ACTIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS IN BERLIN OUR DETERMINATION NOT TO SEE THE RIGHT OF  
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PAGE 03 USBERL 01037 191641Z

FREE SPECULATION ERODED BY THE ELIMINATION OF FLAG TOURS. TAKING THEIR CUE FROM THE DISCUSSION OF THE THREE AMBASSADORS WITH GEHLHOFF ON APRIL 14 IN WHICH THE AMBASSADORS AGREED TO THE NEED FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING, THE MISSIONS AGREED THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPH 3 THROUGH 9 OF USBERLIN 635 (NOTAL), WITH SOME EMBELLISHMENT, WOULD BE THE BASIS OF A RECOMMENDATION TO BONN. BRITISH EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR A CONCERTED TRIPARTITE HIGH LEVEL SIMULTANEOUS STATEMENT TO THE SOVIETS UNDERLINING OUR DETERMINATION. HOPEFULLY AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON A GRADUATED SERIES OF ACTIONS DESIGNED TO REINFORCE OUR STATEMENT.

4. AS TO MECHANICS THE THREE MISSIONS AGREED THAT THE FRENCH WOULD POUCH TO BONN ON APRIL 19 THE TEXT OF A BRITISH PAPER (SUMMARIZED ABOVE PARAS. 2 AND 3) FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE THREE EMBASSIES. IN ADDITION, AN AMERICAN PAPER ON CONTINGENCY MEASURES WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THIS PAPER AFTER THE THREE MISSIONS HAD QUICKLY REVIEWED IT

BY AN EXCAHNGE OF INTRA-BERLIN MESSAGES. THEREUPON THIS LATTER  
PAPER WILL BE TRANSMITTED ELECTRICALLY TO BONN. OUR OBJECTIVE  
WAS TO GIVE THE BONN GROUP AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF THE TRIPARTITE BERLIN  
POSITION ON WEDNSEDAY. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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